



COMMANDO

Any Time, Any Place

Vol. 54, Issue 44

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Dec. 16, 2005

Five from Hurlburt selected for colonel

Five Hurlburt Field officers were recently selected for promotion to colonel.

The promoted include:

Lt. Col. Thomas Bell, Air Force Operations Test and Evaluation Center

Lt. Col. Michael DuPerier, 19th Special Operations Squadron

Lt. Col. James Foley, Air Force Special Operations Command

Lt. Col. Nancy Kunkel, 16th Maintenance Group

Lt. Col. James Marsh, 16th SOS

"It's a privilege to be in the Air Force and a honor to be a selected as a colonel," Colonel DuPerier said.

In all, 447 lieutenant colonels were selected for promotion.

The results of the board are as follows:

In-the-promotion zone 331 selected from 736 considered for 45 percent select rate.

Above-the-promotion zone 14 selected from 976 considered for 1.4 percent select rate.

Below-the-promotion zone for colonel 60 selected from 2418 considered for 2.5 percent select rate.

There were 43 officers selected in medical and judge advocate boards. (AFPN)

Tops In Blue

Senior Airman Erika Placencia, Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., (left) and 1st Lt. Tamilyn Becker, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., (right) perform on stage during the 2005 Tops In Blue world tour Dec. 7 in the Freedom Hangar. Tops In Blue is an all active duty U.S. Air Force special unit made up of amateur performers selected for their entertainment abilities.



Photograph by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

SFS Airman receives Bronze Star

by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes
16th SOW Public Affairs

A security forces individual mobilized augmentee was presented a Bronze Star Wednesday by Col. Clifford "Skip" Day, 16th Mission Support Group commander.

Tech. Sgt. Gary Barrow, a Fort Walton Beach native, and combat arms training and maintenance instructor with the 16th Security Forces Squadron, earned the medal for bravery while deployed to Iraq in 2003, during a ceremony at the 6th Special Operations Squadron.

While in Iraq, Sergeant Barrow, a former Army infantryman who joined the Air Force in 2002, was the NCO in charge of a deployed site's security forces control center, where he was responsible for the security of more than 1,500 people and special operations aircraft.

Sergeant Barrow was recognized for his leadership skills and decisiveness to diffuse potentially deadly situations. One such situation involved an individual who walked up to the main gate at the deployed location with improvised explosives. He secured the situation and ensured that no one was injured.

"When I saw the man approaching, I automatically knew something was wrong by the way he was acting," Sergeant Barrow said. "I just tried to keep him from getting near any people or resources that could be injured or damaged. The local national troops physically detained him."

"I didn't do anything special, I just did what I was supposed to," Sergeant Barrow said.

Sergeant Barrow also displayed his heroism while aircrew members on the base were taking heavy fire. He estab-

lished a blocking force, which successfully prevented any injuries or damage or loss of aircraft.

"I was in the right place at the right time, or some people might say the wrong place at the wrong time," he said.

Even though the events for which Sergeant Barrow is being rewarded took place more than two years ago, he was still honored.

"My family is really excited," Sergeant Barrow said. "My parents and everyone attended to the ceremony."

"I'm proud of him. I'm thankful that he did his duty and is back home now," said Dewey Barrow, Sergeant Barrow's father and Fort Walton Beach resident.

"He really deserves this award," said Heather Barrow, Sergeant Barrow's wife. "He thinks about other people first. He thinks this country is worth the sacrifice, and he would do it again today."

News



News

15th Special Operations Squadron gears up annual gift delivering in Honduras

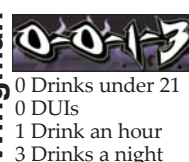
Feature



Sports



Wingman



Weather

	High	Low
Today	58	38
Sat.	58	37
Sun.	56	38

Home of America's Air Commandos

2005: Year to be proud of

by Lt. Gen.
Michael Wooley
AFSOC commander

As we look forward to spending time in peace with family and friends this holiday season, we should take this opportunity to reflect on a year of hard work and remarkable accomplishments.

We continued to lead the fight in the war on terrorism, and our efforts yielded historic results.

In October, the Iraqi

people bravely turned out and voted to approve that country's first constitution, setting the stage for democratic elections in January.

In Afghanistan, every man and woman was given the opportunity to choose their own constitution, representatives and president.

My fellow Airmen, you were the ones who made this possible, engaging and defeating the insurgents, who persistently attempt to undermine freedom.

Not only did we take the fight to the enemy in Iraq, Afghanistan and other corners of the globe, we used our unique talents to save lives here at home.

In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our active-duty, Guard and Reserve Air Rescue Warriors and Air Commandos combined to save more than 5,400 people and deliver 550 emergency response personnel and more than 150 tons of cargo to those who needed

it most. You brought hope to those who had lost it.

Unfortunately our successes came with a cost. Many of you spent significant time away from your families this year, and I can't express how much I appreciate your sacrifices.

Some of our warriors paid the ultimate price, giving their lives in the fight for freedom, and we will forever keep their memories in our hearts and minds.

The reason we have achieved victories,

See **PRIDE**, Page 6

16th SOW Aimpoints

- Fight and win
- Take best care of our wingmen, families and resources
- Become the next generation of Air Force and Air Commando leaders

Disclaimer

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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is noon Monday for briefs the week of publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call.

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to the base commander for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the COMMANDO. Other questions will be answered by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give the commander a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

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Reflect on accomplishments, focus on 2006

by Col. Norman Brozenick Jr.
16th SOW commander

What a year it has been. Just think about it.

The year began just as the three previous years – Air Commandos doing what they do best, continuing to support the Global War on Terrorism. We started off at a sprint, and the pace only got quicker.

Hurricane season started off quickly as the first named storm of the summer, Tropical Storm Arlene, made landfall just to our west. The next month, Hurricane Dennis blew through and delivered a bigger punch to the Emerald Coast.

But, the storms proved to be no match for the resilience of Team Hurlburt as we pulled together and quickly overcame the challenge.

As the alphabet soup of storms continued, Hurlburt was called upon to provide relief to our neighbors in Mississippi and Louisiana after hurri-

canes Katrina and Rita ravaged the area. The outpouring of support and compassion for our brothers and sisters along the Gulf Coast from our Airmen and their families was unbelievable.

Did all of this bring a halt to our no-fail mission downrange? No way. We continued to deliver our specialized air power in Iraq, Afghanistan and wherever called upon by the president. It's because of your dedication to the mission that the Iraqi people held their first democratic election this year and Afghanis now have hope of further developing their democracy.

This is just a sample of what we've accomplished in 2005. Now it's time for some much-deserved time with our friends and families to celebrate the holiday season.

When you make the trip to join your loved ones, I ask that you do so safely. Make sure you get plenty of rest before hitting the road. I know

everyone is eager to spend time with family and friends, but don't speed. The few extra minutes you'll cut off driving time isn't worth the life you stand to lose if you get in an accident.

No matter where you spend the holidays, keep in your hearts our brothers and sisters in arms who continue to fight for freedom overseas. Open up your homes to their families and to those Airmen who remain here, unable to go back to their own.

Also, keep in your minds the Airmen who are no longer with us. Regardless of if they were lost at home or abroad, their memories will remain with us all.

So, Team Hurlburt, my heartfelt thanks go to you for all you've done for the base, the community and the nation throughout the year. Col. Paul Harmon, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, Chief Master Sgt. Todd Small, 16th SOW command chief, and I wish you and yours the happiest of holidays.

Air Commando Salute

Staff Sgt. Thomas Nieto

Organization: 25th Information Operations Squadron
Duty Title: Communications surveillance technician
Hometown: Orlando, Fla.
Hobbies: Fishing, traveling and spending time with family
Mission Contributions:

Sergeant Nieto performs ground maintenance, to include troubleshooting and repairs, on aircraft surveillance equipment installed on Air Force Special

Operations Command aircraft.

Sergeant Nieto coordinates maintenance support issues with the host base, 16th Special Operations Wing maintenance and contractor personnel. In addition, he provides information and technical advice to higher levels of management.

(For information about Air Commando Salute or to submit an Airman, call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464.)



Photograph by Jamie Haig

DUI Tracker

Dec. 9-15: 1 DUI
This year: 28
DUIs for 2004: 42
Last DUI: 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Dec. 10
Days since last DUI:
16th OG...72
16th MXG...5
16th MSG...38
16th MDG...351

Totals are current as of Dec. 15.
Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844
Potential saves this year: 620



For children's sake

Five-room, \$2.1-million addition improves youth center's quality, capabilities

by **Jamie Haig**
16th SOW Public Affairs

The 6,700-square foot, \$2.1 million addition to the Hurlburt Field Youth Center opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, signifying an improvement for Hurlburt Field children and the before-and-after school programs offered.

"It's been a long time coming, and I thank 16th Services Squadron personnel for their efforts," said Col. Clifford "Skip" Day, 16th Mission Support Group commander. "I hope everyone will enjoy it."

Five new rooms, which took 16

months to complete, presents new opportunities for children ages 5-12 years old.

"We want to challenge the children," said Dell Mucci, youth center director. "We want to encourage them physically and mentally."

The "quiet room" provides a space where the children can read, do homework or take part in drama classes.

The science and arts room has a selection of arts and craft supplies, microscopes, board games and a sewing area.

The dance room, which is enclosed by mirrors, is available for practicing



Photograph by Jamie Haig

Tuesday, children enjoy a snack in the new youth center multi-purpose room. The newly opened addition offers equipment and space to keep children active.

dance moves and doing aerobics.

A multi-purpose room allows for a place to play music and have snacks. The room, which is equipped with a kitchen, can also be rented out by base

members for personal use. It also comes equipped with dance platform machines, a big screen television and

See YOUTH, Page 6

NCO convicted on cocaine charges

by **Master Sgt. Stuart Camp**
16th SOW Public Affairs

An NCO with more than 18 years of service was convicted here of drug use Dec. 13.

Tech. Sgt. Freda Kelly, Detachment 7, 373rd Training Squadron instructor, pleaded guilty to multiple uses of cocaine during the one-day court-martial.

The trial ended at 1:50 p.m. with military judge, Lt. Col. Donald Plude, sentencing her to eight months confinement, reduction in grade to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge.

Sergeant Kelly admitted to using cocaine after missing promotion to master sergeant by less than a point in 2005, involuntary reassignment as an instructor and being denied a medal.

"Rank has its privileges, but it also has its responsibilities ... She chose to be a drug user – not an NCO."

Capt. James Reed,
16th Special Operations Wing Legal Office
trial counsel

Capt. James Reed, trial counsel for the 16th Special Operations Wing Legal Office, argued that Sergeant Kelly used cocaine up to eight times in 18 months.

"Rank has its privileges, but it also has its responsibilities," Captain Reed said. "She knew everything was at stake every time she used

cocaine. She chose to be a drug user – not an NCO."

Sergeant Kelly, a C-130 crew chief, was removed from her instructor duties Aug. 1 after being identified through random urinalysis testing.

Defending Sergeant Kelly at the court-martial was Capt. Jeremy Anderson, area defense counsel here, and Capt. Kristine Autorino, a circuit defense attorney.

"Sergeant Kelly is a good person who made some bad choices," Captain Autorino said during the sentencing phase of the trial. "She has taken responsibility for her actions."

In an unsworn statement, the accused apologized to her family and coworkers – many of whom attended the proceedings.

The maximum sentence Sergeant Kelly could have received was a dishonorable discharge, five years confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and a reduction in grade to E-1.

505th CCW donation answer to prayer for Angel Tree funds



Photograph by Kemberly Groue

Capt. Christine Gentry (left) and 2nd Lt. Eric Kline, Hurlburt Field Company Grade Officer Council, give gifts to Angel Tree recipients at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

by **Senior Airman Heidi Davis**
16th SOW Public Affairs

"I was standing in front of the Angel Tree in the Eglin (Air Force Base) chapel with 12 tags in my hand left to fill asking, 'How will we fill these needs?' Minutes later, I received a phone call," said Pia Elsesser, 96th Air Base Wing at Eglin.

On the phone, Master Sgt. Mike Strickland, 505th Command and Control Wing, offered Ms. Elsesser \$750 cash to purchase items for the leftover children.

"I couldn't believe how quickly the need was met," Ms. Elsesser said. "I was able to purchase all the items on

the tags with money left over."

Blessings continued to pour out on the community after Ms. Elsesser received another phone call.

"A call came in this morning (Tuesday) from the family advocacy center at Eglin," she said. "A couple is expecting their first baby and can't afford the things they'll need for a newborn."

"With money left over from the donation by the 505th, we can help purchase some of those items for the couple," Ms. Elsesser said.

Before sending money to Eglin, the 505th CCW also gave \$1,000 to the Hurlburt Field Company Grade Officer Council and \$700 to the 16th

Special Operations Wing Chapel to help with Angel Tree tags.

"They (505th CCW personnel) made me cry," said 1st Lt. Corrie Patch, Hurlburt Field Angel Tree coordinator. "At the deadline, we had 22 angels without gifts."

"With the \$1,000 donation, we were able to purchase gifts for those children," she said. "They really came through and saved the day."

Lieutenant Patch said the donations by the 505th CCW helped provide for gifts to 315 children on the Angel Tree (109 of which from Keesler).

In total, Team Hurlburt raised more than \$11,000 for gifts for local children and \$7,000 for children at Keesler.

Airmen on mission to deliver presents during... Operation Christmas Wish

by Senior Airman
Heidi Davis
16th SOW Public Affairs

On Tuesday, 100 needy children will be waiting at Aldea SOS in La Ceiba, Honduras, where Santa Claus has been arriving each year on an Air Commando aircraft.

Twenty-eight Hurlburt Field Airmen will fly to La Ceiba, in an MC-130H Talon II (provided by the

15th Special Operations Squadron) and an MC-130P Combat Shadow (provided by the 9th SOS at Eglin Air Force Base) to deliver 16,000 pounds of food, clothing and gifts to the orphaned children.

"The purpose of the mission is to share the holiday spirit with those children by providing small gifts of clothing, toys and candy as well as common use items that the orphanage needs,

like wheelchairs and small appliances," said Capt. Lance Burnett, 15th SOS. "The items have been donated by base and local community organizations."

The orphanage receives little help from its government, other than providing the land and facility. In 1992, Lt. Col. Kenneth Poole, then 8th SOS commander who has since retired and works at the Joint Special Operations

University, made it his mission to provide needed supplies once a year.

Thus, Operation Christmas Wish was born.

"We were in La Ceiba on a mission, when we saw the orphanage on the side of the road," said Maj. Manuel Torres, U.S. Air Force Special Operations School and co-founder of Operation Christmas Wish.

"It really got to us. That year, we gave the orphanage \$200 and have been returning each year since," he said.

See **WISH**, Page 6



Photograph by Tech. Sgt. Andy Dunaway

An Iraqi soldier places his completed ballot into the ballot box after voting along with other Iraqi security forces in Hayji, Iraq, Monday. Iraqi citizens voted Thursday to elect Iraq's first free, permanent parliamentary government.

Brothers In Arms

Army

WASHINGTON – Four Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were killed Tuesday when their patrol vehicle struck a makeshift bomb northwest of Baghdad, officials said.

The Soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. Officials provided no other details.

Marines

WASHINGTON – In Iraq, a suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. convoy Monday on a street in Fallujah, wounding a Marine and killing the bomber, officials at Camp Blue Diamond, about 70 miles west of Baghdad, said today.

Officials said the bomber was parked on the side of the street in a yellow taxi and detonated the bomb as the convoy passed. The injured Marine was taken to a nearby military hospital for treatment. No report was available on the Marine's condition.

Navy

MAYPORT, Fla. – A U.S. Navy SH-60B helicopter from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 48, homeported in Mayport, Fla., crashed in the eastern Pacific Ocean the morning of Dec. 13.

Three crew members were on board, and their status remains unknown.

Throwing cheer overboard

Col. Mark Alsids (top left), 16th Operations Group commander, and members of the 16th Operations Support Squadron ride a boat from the Maritime Range Supply Building in the 20th Annual Destin Christmas Parade Saturday.



Photograph by Amy Oliver

16th MDG opens facilities for honorary program tour

by Amy Oliver
16th SOW Public Affairs

The 16th Special Operations Wing's honorary commanders and honorary command chief toured the 16th Medical Group Dec. 8.

The honorary commanders and command chief program includes four quarterly tours, each one focusing on one of the four groups of the wing.

The purpose of the program is to introduce the civic leaders to the mission each group performs and how each plays an integral part in the overall mission of the 16th SOW.

The 16th MDG conducted the first quarterly tour.

"Much of what you'll see is common in most medical clinics," said Col. Tim Jex, 16th MDG commander, during the mission briefing.

"But, we'll also show you specific skills and some special equipment that are required to keep our Air

Commandos fighting at the tip of the spear," Colonel Jex said.

After the 16th MDG mission briefing, the group toured the dental lab, pharmacy, physical therapy, laboratory, radiology, optometry and the tactical operations medical skills lab. The group learned how the dental lab can make crowns, dentures and mouthpieces in-house. The pharmacy demonstrated all the checks involved in filling prescriptions, virtually eliminating any chance for mistakes and ensuring patient safety.

In physical therapy, Colonel Jex explained that due to the intense physical training required of Air Commandos which sometimes causes injuries, physical therapy is a busy clinic. In the optometry clinic, the group watched as Senior Master Sgt. Lynn Lawrence, 16th Medical Operations Squadron, made a pair of eyeglasses within minutes. The optometry clinic also demonstrated the capabilities of their brand new

retinal mapping machine that can take a photograph of the retina without dilating the patient's eyes. Maj. (Dr.) Robert Keesad Jr., 16th MDOs, explained how they recently saved an Airman's eyesight by diagnosing a nearly detached retina at a routine eye exam.

"That's amazing," said Brad Williams, 16th Operations Group honorary commander and captain of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Division of Law Enforcement. "Saving just one person's eyesight pays for the machine."

Finally, the group visited the tactical/operational medical skills lab where medics train in simulated combat environments on a dummy that is virtually alive, complete with blinking eyes and rising chest.

"I had no idea of the technology that was here," said Yvonne Freeman, 16th MDG honorary commander and president of Brainstorms Marketing and Special Events.

SOF: Club supplements training

by Airman 1st Class
James Dickens
16th SOW
Public Affairs

Keeping motorcycle riders safe on the Gulf Coast has drawn direct support from wing leadership.

Riders are required to take a safety class before riding on or off base, but the Sentinels of Freedom motorcycle club is another place to ride and build skills.

"Like most people, I complained when I learned that I had to attend a mandatory training class on how to ride my bike," said Tech. Sgt. Damian Spaits, 6th

Special Operations Squadron and SOF member.

"After I attended the course, I realized that I probably would have killed myself had I not been through training," he said.

SOF takes rides in the local area and, as the saying goes, practice makes perfect.

"Since joining (SOF), I find myself taking rides to places that I may have never found on my own," Sergeant Spaits said.

"The camaraderie of SOF is the thing that surprised me most. They don't care what type of motorcycle you

ride or what your experience may be."

The motorcycle riders here have been on the rise along with gas prices, but riders need to make sure to stay safe.

"In this area, riders have to be extra careful, and make sure to watch the drivers around them," said Col. Paul Harmon, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander. "Clubs like SOF can help riders get comfortable, instead of just hopping on the road."

For more information about SOF, visit <http://www.hurlburt.af.mil/basewide/sentinels>.

'Rhett' reduces flightline wildlife hazard

by Jamie Haig
16th SOW Public Affairs

Rhett, the bird and wildlife strike hazard border collie, has worked on the Hurlburt Field flightline for a little over a year, and the result is a reduction in bird strikes.

Bird and other wildlife aircraft strikes cost the military hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. It's Rhett's job, as part of the bird and wildlife strike hazard program, also known as BASH, to encourage those animals to seek shelter away from the flightline.

"Bird strike costs have dropped off tremendously in the past year at Hurlburt Field," said Maj. Daniel Wilson, 16th Special Operations Wing flight safety chief. "In the past three fiscal years, bird-strike costs here were more than \$450,000. Since Rebecca Rushing, (16th SOW Safety

Office wildlife control officer) and Rhett started working here, the costs have dropped to \$40,000 – a 90-percent decrease in one year," he said.

Ms. Rushing, is Rhett's trainer and handler. The pair can be seen on the flightline throughout the day, looking for any wildlife hazards that may pose a risk to aircraft.

Ms. Rushing escorts Rhett through the tarmacs, fields and tree lines that line base landing strips. The goal is to leave behind Rhett's 'scent' as a deterrent to the animals and birds.

Ms. Rushing developed verbal and whistle commands for Rhett. Based on the length, pitch and tone of the whistle, Rhett knows exactly what to do at any given moment.

The team also works with the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, airfield management and the safety office to identify wildlife hazards under low-level training routes.

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PRIDE, Continued from Page 2

furthered our proud heritage, and done all our country has asked of us is because you, the men and women of Air Force Special Operations Command, are of the highest character and integrity. The nature of our work often demands we

make quick decisions on our own, and I know I can trust you to make the right choices.

Keep putting integrity first in all you do, and we will continue to provide America the finest special operations and combat search and rescue forces the world has ever known.

I'm proud of you, our nation is proud of you,

and you should be proud of yourselves. Have an enjoyable and safe holiday. Take time to let your loved ones know how I appreciate them and how much you appreciate them. It's their love and support that enables us to do what must be done. Kathy and I wish you and your family the best for the holidays.

WISH, Continued from Page 4

Major Torres said that most of the children, who range from age 2 to 16, were abandoned by their parents.

"Some were sent to the orphanage because their parents died," he said. "But, most were taken in because their parents didn't want them."

The orphanage is managed by about 20 people and on a limited budget, so the gifts received from Operation Christmas Wish are a blessing for the community,

Major Torres said.

"They are always excited to see us arrive," he said. "We are usually able to spend at least four hours at the orphanage with the children. Capt. Darin Wheeler, 15th SOS, will be our Santa Claus for the second year in a row."

Although every mission has its risks, for the most part, Honduras is a friend and ally, Captain Burnett said.

"Each year, we find a way to improve the system and help the schedule run smoother," Major Torres said. "We also try to prevent a 'rush in, rush out' mission."

Bike challenge raises funds for 'Christmas wish'

by Jamie Haig
16th SOW Public Affairs

When Jim Anderson, U.S. Air Force Special Operations School research director, realized the unit didn't have the money to support any charity programs, he took immediate action.

On Dec. 2-3, Mr. Anderson and Lt. Col. Mark LeSage, USAFSOS chief of professional development, biked from Hurlburt Field to Panama City Beach and

back to Shalimar raising almost \$650 for Operation Christmas Wish.

During Operation Christmas Wish, the 15th Special Operations Squadron flies packages to an orphanage in La Cebia, Honduras to help less fortunate children.

"I knew the status of our funds and that we wouldn't be able to help out this year," said Mr. Anderson. "So, we came up with some ideas on how to raise money through sponsorship."

The money raised by the two bikers was more than enough to sponsor 15 children at the orphanage.

Mr. Anderson rode the 128-mile trip and Colonel LeSage met him in Destin to ride to Panama City Beach.

"This entire venture was Jim's idea," said Colonel LeSage. "He put together the entire deal - set up the trip, raised the money and arranged for the packages. All I did was accompany him part of the way."

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F-22A ready for combat

Courtesy of AFPN

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. – The Air Force's most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials here announced Thursday.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor, which was redesignated from the F/A-22 in the past week, has been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor's proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force.

It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required. In the words of Gen. Ronald Keys, Air Combat Command commander, "If we go to war

tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us."

"F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal," General Keys said. "The Raptor's cutting-edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats."

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collabora-

tive effort between Air Force organizations and the service's industry partners over the past 25 years.

The road to IOC included the F-22A System Program Office turning Air Force requirements into a successful acquisition program; developmental flight test and evaluation, simulation and ground testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla.; engine testing at Arnold AFB, Tenn.; missile testing at Holloman AFB, N.M., and over the Pacific Test Range; tactics development at Nellis

AFB, Nev.; pilot and maintenance training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and deployability here.

"The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the warfighter today and 30 years from today," General Keys said.

"Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused

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soon, a karaoke machine.

The new high-tech cyber lounge has five computers that are hooked up with three interactive

gaming stations and a gateway to the Internet.

"We try to encourage the children to be active," said Sarah Conway, 16th SVS. "But, we also understand their need to just 'chill' in front of a game sometimes."

In addition to the changes made for the children, the youth center staff members now has their own training room.

"This room gives us the edge," said Mr. Mucci. "We want to provide the best training available to our staff."

The youth center has plans to keep expanding their current curriculum to offer more opportunities for base children.

The hours of operation are 6:15-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

RIVIERA FITNESS SPA
CS RHP/2 FOR 1
595138
2 X 7.00

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
COMMANDO/MASTER
608579
3 X 7.00

Base posts holiday hours for 16th Services Squadron facilities

Facility	<u>Dec. 24</u>	<u>Dec. 25</u>	<u>Dec. 26</u>	<u>Dec. 31</u>	<u>Jan. 1</u>	<u>Jan. 2</u>
Gator Lakes Golf Course	7 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Closed	6 a.m. to dusk	6 a.m. to dusk	6 a.m. to dusk	6 a.m. to dusk
Hurlburt Lanes Bowling Center	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Spare Time Grill (Hurlburt Lanes)	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
J.R. Rockers	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
The Soundside	Closed Thursday through Dec. 28			Party	Closed	Closed
Officers hooch	Closed Saturday through Jan. 3					
Enlisted hooch	Closed Dec. 23 – Jan. 3					
Velocity Subs	Closed Saturday through Jan. 3					
Child development center	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Teen center	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Youth center open recreation	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
School age program	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Information, tickets and travel sales	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
ITT leisure travel sales	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Frame skills	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wood skills	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Multi-crafts center	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Auto skills	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Pool	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Beachside/marina	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Paintball fields	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Aderholt Fitness Center	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Commando Fitness Center	8 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed
Riptide Fitness Center	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Riptide Dining Facility	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Oasis Dining Facility	Flight meals only (Dec. 24 – Jan. 2)					
Reef Dining Facility	Br 6-8:30 a.m.; L 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; D 4-6:30 p.m. (Dec. 24 – Jan. 2)					
Library	Closed	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed
Dive club	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

Editor's Note: The library will also be closed Dec. 20-23.

DR CANDACE COOLEY
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AF mission statement defines future direction

by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
AFPJ

Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," said Michael Wynne, Air Force, secretary and Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff, wrote in a joint letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever, we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the U.S. Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace,"

which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said.

"With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world," said Secretary Wynne and General Moseley.

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace, from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said.

F-22A, Continued from Page 10

on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force," he said. "To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop (joint direct attack munitions), fly against double-digit (surface-to-air missiles) at Nellis, and work (close air support) with

F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge."

Designed to ensure America's air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces' freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as adversaries continue to advance their weapons and technologies.

"As I told (Air Force Chief of Staff) Gen. (T. Michael) Moseley, he and I have spent our lifetime executing, instructing, and providing air dominance for the joint force," General Keys said. "Lamentably, we have never been privileged to hold a weapon like this in our hands."

"After reviewing our test results, seeing our operational deployment performance, and talking to the pilots that will go to war with it, I am confident that the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air," he said.

The first combat-ready Raptors are assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of three squadrons assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing here.

The squadron's current combat deployment capability with the F-22A is a 12-ship package designed to execute air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

IDEAWORKS
CS/UWF
611724
3 X 9.50

Front-line forecasting not average day on the job

by Chief Master Sgt.
Gary Emery
AFSOC Public Affairs

Slashing through Burmese jungles with Maj. Gen. Orde Wingate's Chindits; hunkering down far above the demilitarized zone in North Vietnam; infiltrating into Northern Iraq to ensure the success of a thousand-man airborne jump – not the average day at the office for most weather forecasters.

But, those missions and many more have been business as usual since 1942 for the Air Force special operations weather teams assigned to the 10th Combat Weather Squadron.

The battle-trained meteorologists of special operations weather have been at the tip of the spear for more than 60 years. They provide combatant commanders with the weather data and analysis they need to plan and execute missions at the tactical, operational and strategic levels of war.

As elite members of the Air Force Battlefield Airman program, special operations weathermen receive special-



Photographs by Chief Master Sgt. Gary Emery

Capt. Don Garrett (left) and Staff Sgt. Jody Ball, both in the 10th Combat Weather Squadron, look for enemy forces during a special operations weather team exercise near the base.

ized training far beyond that of other meteorologists, said squadron director of operations Maj. Don Shannon.

"Our guys have first gone through the normal weather training and served in an operational weather squadron before they can volunteer for SOWT," he said.

Major Shannon said, "We typically work with special operations forces from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Because of the types of individuals we

team with, we undergo much of the specialized training they do, so we can keep up with them in the field."

Weather team members are jump-qualified and may hold ratings as military freefall parachutists, air assault specialists, Rangers, combat diver qualifications and more, the major said.

"We know that when we put out a forecast, someone is going to use it down-range," said Capt. Don Garrett, the squadron's assis-

tant director of operations.

"We provide the real-time, eyes-on, ground truth about conditions that can critically impact the mission.

"That's why this is a total volunteer outfit," he said. "We're all willing to give it 100 percent every day."

Major Shannon agrees the people are what make the weather teams unique.

"These people have great attitudes. They're tough guys who get it done no matter how rough it gets," he said.

A "typical" SOWT mission was like that performed by Staff Sgt. Dave Mack. He infiltrated into Iraq with an Army special forces operational detachment alpha team during the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They survived 12 missile attacks, one which destroyed their Humvee, and endured almost continuous small-arms attack. At one point, Sergeant Mack provided 36

continuous hours of weather observations so aircraft could evacuate seriously wounded Soldiers from Baghdad.

"You get so much satisfaction from this mission," Major Shannon said.

"Everyone works together and you affect the mission at every stage, from planning to execution to redeployment."



Staff Sgt. Jody Ball, 10th Combat Weather Squadron, releases a weather balloon.

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Military

USAFSOS courses

The U.S. Air Force Special Operations School will conduct an Asia-Pacific Orientation Course Jan. 9-13.

This course is designed for people preparing to live in or deploy to the Asia-Pacific region or those with a professional or analytical interest in the region. For more information, call Maj. Jae Sim at 884-1858 or visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou>.

U-drive-it, mobags

The 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Operations Flight provides U-Drive-It government vehicles for official purposes.

All UDI requests must be received five working days prior to the planned event and e-mailed to:

16lrs.dispatch@hurlburt.af.mil. All UDI requests must be coordinated with vehicle control officers or NCOs, or signed by commanders or designated representatives.

The 16th LRS Mobility Bags Section will close at noon the first Monday of each month for training. For more information, call Master Sgt. Jerry Thornton at 884-1329.

Community

Claims

Any persons with a claim for or against the estate of Senior Airman Leland Aslinger, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, should call 1st Lt. Ming Xu at 982-5459 or e-mail ming.xu@hurlburt.af.mil.

Recruiting brief

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1C3X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3A & B, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 2S0X2, 2T0X1, 2T2X1, 3E0X1, 3E0X2, 3E1X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X3, 3E7X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 3S0X1, 4A0X1, 4N0X1, 4N0X1, 4A251 and 6F051. There are also positions open through the rank of major for prior-service navigators qualified in any airframe. For more information, call DSN 344-2457, commercial (800) 524-5070, or e-mail 109aw@recruiting.goang.com.

Casino Night

J.R. Rockers is sponsoring Casino Night at 7 p.m. Jan. 13. Slot machines and table games will be available for patrons 18 years or older. Club members will receive \$5 worth of free chips. Chips earned have no cash



Photograph by Jamie Haig

Let there be lights

Gavin Plumhoft, 3, switches on the lights to the base Christmas tree Tuesday in the Air Park. He is assisted by (left to right) Col. Paul Harmon, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, and Lisa Brozenick, wife of the 16th SOW commander, and Tech. Sgt. Lynne Castle, 16th SOW Protocol.

value, but may be used at the casino auction held at the end of the evening.

For more information, call 884-6469.

Caring and Sharing

Caring and Sharing needs help with the Christmas distribution Saturday through Monday at Oriole Beach Elementary School.

To volunteer or for more information, call Master Sgt. Debra Rasmussen at 883-1079 or 939-4756.

Science fair judges

Science fair judges are needed for the East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair 4-8 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds.

Individuals with specialties in the following areas are desired: behavioral science, botany, health and medicine, microbiology, zoology, chemistry, engineering, math, computers and physics. The sign-up deadline is Jan. 6. For more information, call Minty Knighton at 882-3934 or e-mail minty.knighton@eglin.af.mil.

Spouses' club

The Hurlburt Spouses' Club is offering academic scholarships to military spouses and local high school students.

Applications are located at the squadrons, family support center, base education office, base library, thrift shop and local high schools. Students and spouses may also apply online at www.hurlburtsoc.com.

For more information, call Rachel Crigger at 207-0964.

Air Force Reserve

The Air Force Reserve is hiring for part-time positions. Continue serving in your current Air Force specialty or possibly retrain and continue to receive many of the same Air Force benefits while securing retirement with the Reserves.

If considering early separation under the Palace Chase program or

approaching the end of an active-duty commitment, call Master Sgt. Adam Waldie at 884-2656.

Commando

This is the last issue of the year for the Commando newspaper. The next issue will be printed Jan. 6. All Hurlburt Happenings briefs and articles that will need to appear in the Jan. 6 issue will need to be submitted no later than Jan. 2. For more information, call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464.

Contracting claims

Contractors working on an Air Force installation are responsible for damages they cause to a service member. *Air Force Instruction 51-502* states, the claims office will refer service members to the appropriate office when a mishap occurs.

If the service member knows who the contractor is, they should contact the contractor directly. Service members can file a claim through the base claims office if the contractor fails to reimburse for damages. If the contractor is unknown, or for more information, call Matthew Spencer at 884-6880 or Chris Wen-tworth at 884-1260.

Single parents

An informal lunchtime meeting will be held noon-1:30 p.m. today in the family support center.

Share with others the joys and challenges of being a single parent. Lunch provided. For reservations, call 884-5441.

New Year's Eve

Celebrate New Year's Eve in The Soundside. The members-only price is \$50 and includes dinner, entertainment, champagne toast and breakfast New Year's Day.

The social begins at 7 p.m. Free transportation will be available from The Soundside to the visiting quarters for members. For more information, call 884-7507.

At the movies

Prices are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 6-years-old and up. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field - 884-7648

Friday - Doom (R) Something has gone wrong at a remote scientific research station on Mars. All research has ceased. Communication has failed. A legion of nightmarish creatures of unknown origin stalks the countless rooms and tunnels of the facility, killing what few people remain.

Saturday - Fog (PG-13) A thick fog enshrouds a coastal town. The fog is reminiscent of one 100 years earlier that wrecked a ship and drowned the seamen aboard. The sailors are back and out to kill whomever they find.

Sunday - North Country (R) True story centered on Lori Jensen, who took a job at a Minnesota iron mine in 1975. She and other female miners endured harassment from male co-workers. Jensen eventually filed suit in 1984 and won a landmark legal decision.

Eglin - 882-1066

Friday - Prime (PG-13) Rafi is a recently divorced 37-year-old career woman from Manhattan and Dave is a talented 23-year-old painter from Brooklyn who falls in love with her. Part counselor, part Jewish mother, Rafi's therapist Lisa is helping Rafi out of her post-divorce slump and through the urgent alarm of her ticking biological clock.

Saturday - Dreamer (PG) Ben was once a great horseman, whose gifts as a trainer were now being wasted on making other men's fortunes. Sonya was a great horse whose promising future on the racetrack was suddenly cut short.

Sunday - The Weather Man (R) Popular Chicago weatherman, Dave Spritz, has a shot at the big time when a national morning television show calls him for an audition. Professionally, Dave is on the top of the world, but his personal life is in disarray.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm dates.)

Base chapel

Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education: September - May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)
11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)
Religious Education: August - May

Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin

Chapel Center

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel

Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795.

Airman Against Drunk Driving

For a free, confidential ride home, call AADD at 884-8844. Don't drink and drive.

24-hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline:

Hurlburt Field - 884-6322

Air Force - (800) 538-8429

Department of Defense - (800) 424-9098

Military equal opportunity

The 16th Special Operations Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office is seeking volunteers to serve as chair and co-chair for three upcoming ethnic observances.

Be a leader in organizing, coordinating and planning events to promote awareness and understanding in learning about different cultures.

For more information, call the following points of contact:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, Jan. 16

Master Sgt. Norman Williams, 884-6844

African-American History Month, February
Sergeant Williams

Women's History Month, March

Tech. Sgt. Jeannie Crosby, 884-2631.

Unit Personnel Records

The 16th Mission Support Squadron Unit Personnel Records Group and Awards & Decorations will close Dec. 27 – Jan. 2 to conduct a 100 percent inventory of all UPR's.

Please return all records to the UPRG located in the 16th MSS Military Personnel Flight, Building 90210, by close of business Wednesday.

Classes OWC

The Microsoft Information Technology Academy and Cisco Systems Networking Academy at Okaloosa-Walton College offer evening courses beginning Jan. 4 at the Niceville campus. Courses provide hands-on training. Enroll now through Jan. 4 at any OWC campus. In-person registration is 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Previously registered OWC students may apply online. For more information, call 729-5217.

Spring registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University spring registration continues until Jan. 6 in Building 90220. The spring term is Jan. 7 – March 10. For more information, call 581-2106 or view the online schedule at www.erau.edu/fortwaltonbeach.

Education testing

The Hurlburt Field Education and Base Training Flight offers tests to individuals seeking to advance or meet educational goals.

Testing is conducted at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, and at 8 a.m. Thursdays. For more information, call 884-6724.

Register for classes

Register for college courses starting next year. Stop by the Hurlburt Field Education and Base Training Flight to receive counseling and guidance to reach your educational goals. For more information, call 884-6724.

University of Arkansas

The University of Arkansas located at Hurlburt Field offers a Master of Science with a major in operations management. Complete a degree in one year.

Classes start in January, March, May, August and October. For more information, call Sherry Del Castillo at 884-3844.

Online tuition requests

Active-duty members can process their online tuition assistance requests through the Air Force Virtual Education Center by logging on to the Air Force Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af5/FAF/fafHome.jsp> and going to the "Career" or "Life" sections.

For more information, call 884-6724.

Week in History

The following is a list of extraordinary events that occurred this week in military history:

Dec. 13, 1962 – The U.S. Air Force Star-gazer balloon reached an altitude of 82,000 feet.

Dec. 14, 1927 – Army Maj. Gen. James Edmond Fehet became Air Corps chief.

Dec. 14, 1989 – Military Airlift Command allows women to serve as crewmembers on C-130 and C-141 air-drop missions.

Dec. 15, 1964 – The first U. S. Air Force gunship, the AC-47, enters combat in Vietnam.

Dec. 17, 1903 – The Wright Brother's first

sustained controlled flight in a powered aircraft occurred.

Dec. 17, 1993 – The first B-2 Spirit bomber arrives at Whiteman Air Force Base, Miss.

Dec. 18, 1941 – First Lt. Boyd "Buzz" Wagner became the first Army Air Force ace of World War II.

Dec. 19, 1958 – President Dwight Eisenhower's Christmas message was relayed by an orbiting Air Force satellite.

Dec. 20, 1989 – The 16th SOW provided direct support for Operation Just Cause in Panama.

Dec. 21, 1944 – Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold appointed to Army five-star general.



File photo

A U. S. Air Force Convair B-36J.

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A glance back at 2005

Year 2005 is coming to a close and the Hurlburt Field COMMANDO staff wants to take this opportunity to look back on the year.

We've had some great accomplishments during a year filled

with disasters.

The most hurricanes ever recorded in the United States, a tsunami in the Indian Ocean and the ongoing war in Iraq and Afghanistan, may have been prob-

lems, but the 16th Special Operations Wing has risen to the challenge.

Now take a look at what you have accomplished this year, the year of 2005.

Jan. 5

Thirteen members of the 16th Security Forces Squadron leave for Asia after the tsunami to provide security and conduct fly-away missions.

Feb. 11

Groundbreaking ceremony for new 720th Operations Support Squadron Advance Skills Training Flight new training facility.



Courtesy photograph

March 19

The first ever Special Operations Family Fest takes place on the flightline. Hundreds of people attended the event.

February

January

March

Feb. 17

Representatives from Hurlburt Field and the Defense Commissary Agency cut the ribbon on the commissary after the facility's two-year, \$9.4 million dollar renovation.



Photograph by Senior Airman Kimberley Batts

March 31

Nine Special Operations Airmen are killed in an MC-130H Combat Talon II aircraft crash in Albania March 31.

Capt. Todd Bracy, 34, of Murphysboro, Ill.; Capt. James Cronin, 32, of Oak Grove Village, Ill.; Capt. Gil Williamson, 31, of Dike, Texas; Capt. Surrender Kothakota, 30, of Fayetteville, N.C.; 1st Lt. Ray Owens Jr., 22, of Birmingham, Ala.; Chief Master Sgt. Lawrence Gray, 40, of Chester, S.C.; Tech. Sgt. James Henry, 30, of Valparaiso, Fla.; Tech. Sgt. Glenn Lastes, 39, of Southington, Conn. and Staff Sgt. Patrick Pentico, 22, of Hanksville, Utah, lost their lives in the accident.

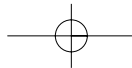
Eight of the Airmen were assigned to the 7th Special Operations Squadron, and Sergeant Lastes was assigned to Detachment 2, 25th Intelligence Operations Squadron.

Feb. 9

Dozens of 823rd RED HORSE Airmen return to Hurlburt Field after a series of highly successful deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Their efforts to improve the quality of life and prevent the spread of terrorism took them to economically-depressed villages throughout Africa and Iraq,



Courtesy photograph

**Nov. 26**

Senior Airman Leland Aslinger, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, dies in a motorcycle accident near Crestview.

Oct. 12

The 319th Special Operations Squadron activates here. The squadron flies the Pilatus PC-12, also designated the U-28A.

Nov. 3

Hurlburt Field awarded the Air Force Special Operations Command Installation Excellence Award

Nov. 18

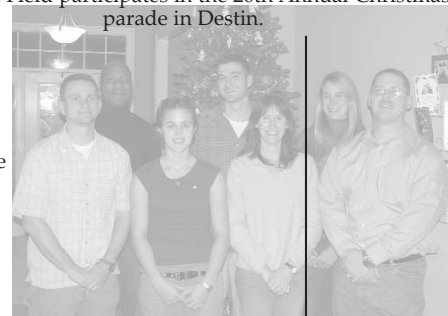
The final tally for the Combined Federal Campaign comes to \$427,000 with an average of 34 percent participation.



Photograph by Amy Oliver

Dec. 10

Hurlburt Field participates in the 20th Annual Christmas parade in Destin.

**November****October****December****Oct. 28**

The 3rd Special Operations Squadron activates at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The squadron operates the MQ-1 Predator.



Photograph by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

Nov. 13

More than 70 tactical air control party Airmen from installations around the world convene here for the Lightning Challenge. The challenge test TACP's in core aspects of their jobs.

Nov. 17

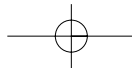
Two Hurlburt Field Air Force Special Operations Command units received the 2005 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with Valor). Recipients include 16th Special Operations Squadron and the 18th Flight Test Squadron.



Photograph by Senior Airman Heidi Davis

Dec. 6

The child development center annex groundbreaking takes place. The \$702,000 project is scheduled for completion in around six months.



Flag football championship

Services stays true for one last game, defeating the medical squadron 29-8, going undefeated on the year

by Staff Sgt.
Mareshah Haynes
16th SOW Public Affairs

The 16th Services Squadron remained undefeated as they trampled the 16th Medical Group Dec. 8, with a 29-8 victory in the final battle of the Hurlburt Field intramural flag football championship.

"We played them (16th MDG) before and won," said Brian Lewis, 16th SVS quarterback.

Services had a solid start in the game, with a touchdown run by Lewis and a two-point

conversion. With less than two minutes left in the first half, 16th MDG snuck past 16th SVS with a pass play caught in the end zone. The 16th MDG completed the two-point conversion.

Services scored another touchdown and successful two-point conversion, settling the score at end of the first half with Services ahead, 16-8.

At halftime, Stan Drew, center and defensive rusher for 16th SVS, could see victory on the horizon for his team.

"We can win because we

"He creates opportunities where there were none."

Stan Drew
16th Services Squadron Center

have a mobile quarterback who sees the field well and creates opportunities where there were none, he said. "Our team is confident."

Despite their efforts, 16th MDG was not able to overcome the lead 16th SVS established at the beginning of the

game.

Chris Estro, 16th MDG coach, attributes the loss to not executing the plays.

"I'm happy to be in second place. In the past, we've never made it to the championship. We had a good season," Estro said.

Lewis lends his team's success to one key element.

"Everybody bought into a system, whereas other teams were trying to air things out and call plays in the huddle," Lewis said.

"We did everything from the line, and short and compact."

In the bleachers

High Five Poker Race

The "High Five Poker Race" will be at 7 a.m. Jan. 20 at the Aderholt Fitness Center. Awards will be presented for the first three places in each age category. Participants with one of the top ten poker hands will receive a prize. Register by noon, Jan. 19 at any of the fitness centers for this free event. For more information, call 884-6884.

Baseball

Youth baseball, ages 5-14 and girls' softball, ages 10-14, registration will be Jan. 9 - Feb. 10. Cost is \$45 per player or \$90 per family. All players must have a current physical and birth certificates on file at the youth center by March 10. For more information, call youth sports at 884-6355.

Coaches

Volunteer coaches are needed for youth baseball and girls' softball teams. Application packages are available at the youth center. All new coaches are required to attend the National Youth Sports Coaches training and complete CPR/first aid training. For more information, call 884-6355.

Behrens dominates 10-mile challenge

by Master Sgt. Stuart Camp
16th SOW Public Affairs

Chris Behrens, a student in the 19th Special Operations Squadron, clocked a blazing 55 minutes 47 seconds to

win the 10-mile Challenge here Saturday morning. Behrens was one of 42 runners who took the challenge and braved cool, 40-degree temperatures.

"He took off," said Greg Voelkel,

who took second place overall and first in the men's 20-29-year-old-age division in 59:32. "He was probably running 5:20 second (miles) at the beginning."

Behrens ran collegiately at the University of Arkansas.

"I was working hard, but I didn't know my splits," he said. "I didn't have my watch on. There was also a headwind out by the flightline."

The course began and ended at the Aderholt Fitness Center. The turnaround point was near the Heritage Gate, beyond the base golf course.

On the return from the turn-around, near mile seven, Behrens had more than a two-minute advantage on the pack — which was led by Voelkel.

Sandy Ebanks, an eighth grade teacher from Pace was the first woman to cross the finish line. Her time was 1 hour 14 minutes, 12 seconds.

Brian McMahon took first in the men's masters' division; and Paula Piazza was the top women's masters' finisher.

Division times

Men's 10-15

Ben Chastain 1:07:50
Keaton Sweatt 1:28:06
Alec Walsh 1:29:16

Women's 16-19

Barbara Richards 1:31:06

Women's 20-29

Christine Miller 1:25:46

Men's 20-29

Voelkel 59:32
Ricardo Rivera 1:07:00
Daniel Whitton 1:09:50

Women's 30-39

Lori Diering 1:19:07
Kathy Leahy 1:20:40
Melissa Marr 1:21:44

Men's 30-39

Ronald Fosnock 1:10:22
Frank Rodriguez 1:10:47
Scott Griffith 1:11:00

Men's 40-49

Rich Sumrall 1:06:14
Gary Maddock 1:08:26
Mike Radford 1:11:10

Men's 50-99

Chris Neal 1:05:14
Bill Christie 1:21:46
Richard Beck 1:41:57



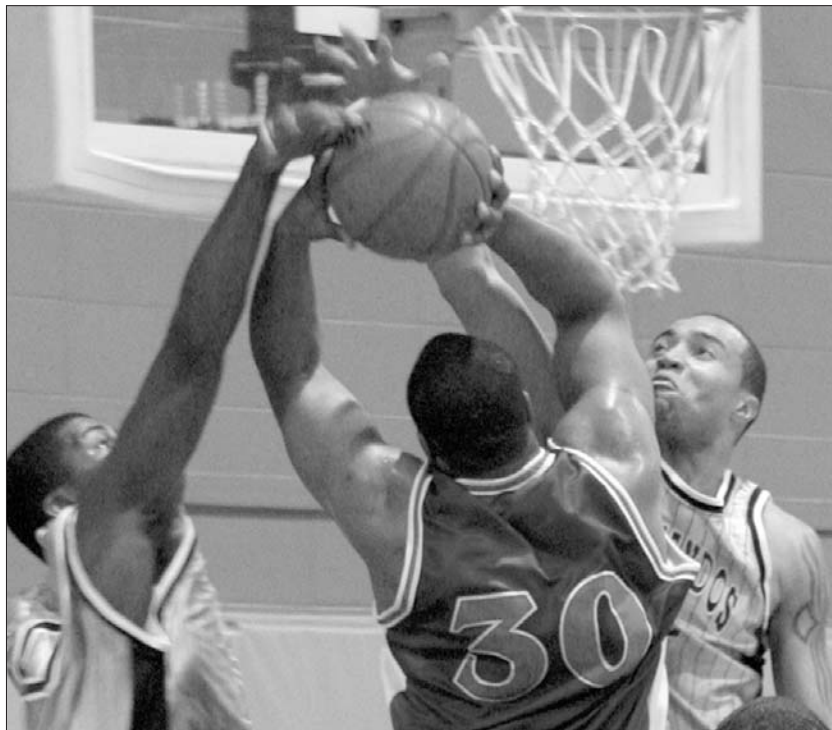
Photograph by Master Sgt. Stuart Camp

Clement Danish, Carl Britt and Alvaro Cowley (from left to right) run along Independence Road on the outward leg of the 10-mile Challenge held Saturday morning.



Photograph by Master Sgt. Stuart Camp

Lori Diering, women's 30-39 age division winner.



Photograph by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

Not this time

Mario Webb (right), 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, and Alfonso Porter, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, converge on Dewayne Huff, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., during a basketball game in the Aderholt Fitness Center Saturday. Hurlburt defeated Robins, 85-83. In a second game Sunday, Robins defeated Hurlburt, 89-67. The Commandos' next home game is against Moody AFB, Ga., Jan. 7-8.

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Over 30 basketball

Team	W	L
AFSOC	5	1
MDG	5	2
MXG	4	2
COMM	4	2
823rd RHS	4	2
SVS	3	3
LRS	3	3
CMS	2	3
505th 1	2	4
505th 2	1	3
MSS	1	4
39th IOS	0	5

Varsity basketball

Team	W	L
Moody	11	5
Tyndall	12	5
Eglin	7	8
Robins	8	7
Mayport	6	11
Hurlburt	4	8
	2	10

Sports standings

For more information on sports standings, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

Intramural horseshoes

Team	W	L
823rd RHS 1	8	2
823rd RHS 2	7	3
CES	6	4
25 IOS	3	6
39 IOS	2	6
39 IOS 2	2	7

Intramural bowling

International league

Team	W	L
HMXS	66	30
39th IOS	60	36
823rd RHS	56	40
LRS	54	42
505 EXS 2	53	43
AFSOC B	52	44
AFSOC A	48	48
505th EXS	46	50
JSOU	46	50
AMXS	43	53
	34	62

National league

Team	W	L
SVS A	68	28
505th CCW	66	30
CMS A	61	35
AFSOC C	56	40
SVS B	52	44
CMS B	52	44
CS	50	46
Chiefs	34	62
MDG		65